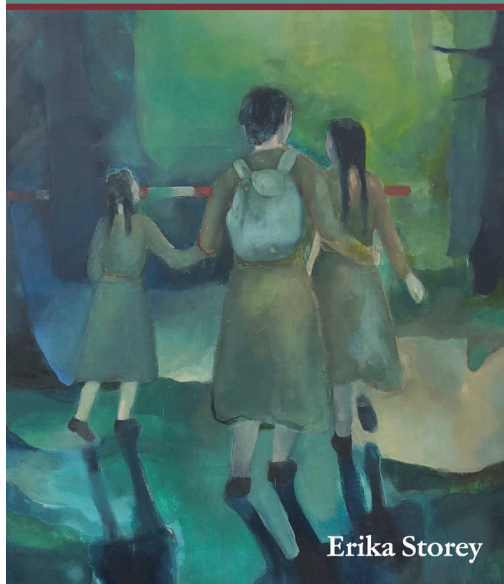


Title Information Sheet

A Childhood in Bohemia and the Flight to the West



A Childhood in Bohemia and the Flight to the West A Memoir



About the Author:

Erika Storey (1936–present) was born in Saaz, Bohemia (now Žatec, Czech Republic). In June 1945, at age eight, she and her family were expelled and interned in camps before settling in Bavaria. After her sister's death in 1950, Erika rebuilt her life, completing business school in Regensburg and working as a secretary.

In 1958, she moved to England as an au pair, where she met and married a teacher. They had four children: Christine, Joseph, Marion, and Ellen. Following her husband's death in 1987 and the loss of both parents, Erika wrote *A Childhood in Bohemia and the Flight to the West* (2009), bringing the largely unknown story of post-war expulsions to English-speaking audiences through her unique perspective as both witness and survivor.

A true story of resilience. A call to remember. A warning for our time.

Title: *A Childhood in Bohemia and the Flight to the West*

Author: Erika Storey

Category: Autobiography

Publisher: Arena Books

Format: Paperback, 426 pages.

Size: 234mm X 156mm (9.21" x 6.14")

Availability Paperback: Available from all good bookshops. For wholesalers, via Gardners, Ingram, or direct from the publisher.

Availability Ebook: Amazon and Kobo

ISBN: 9781914390470 (paperback)

ISBN: 9781914390487 (ebook)

Retail Price Paperback: £24.99; €28.99; US\$ 34.99

About the Book:

June 1945. A small town in Bohemia.

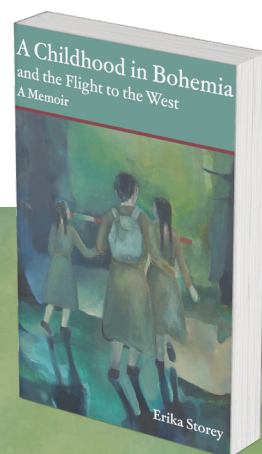
Eight-year-old Erika Schroll is torn from her home along with thousands of other German women and children. Her father is missing. Her world is collapsing. Packed into an SS barracks, then transported in open coal wagons to East Germany, she and her family face a brutal reality: catastrophic hunger, disease, and a winter that kills many around them.

When her father finally finds them in 1947, he weeps at the sight of their skeletal bodies. The reunion brings both joy and an impossible choice: stay in the Soviet zone and die slowly, or risk being shot while crossing the border illegally into West Germany.

The missing chapter of WWII history

After World War II, approximately 15 million Germans were expelled from Eastern Europe in a mass displacement authorized at Tehran and Potsdam – a chapter of history largely pushed under the carpet, especially in English-speaking countries. Among them were 3 million Sudeten Germans from Bohemia, where German and Slavonic cultures had been intertwined for centuries.

Written decades later by a survivor who made England her home, this powerful memoir illuminates the human cost of collective punishment and political decisions made in distant conference rooms. Through vivid, intimate detail – the smell of bonfire smoke triggering buried memories, the taste of oats with husks that seem like delicacies, the desperate ingenuity required simply to survive each day – Erika Storey documents not only what happened, but why it matters.



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